



Prineville-Crook County Chamber of Commerce

390 NE Fairview
Prineville, OR 97754

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Michall K. Powell
Federal Communications Commission³
445 12th St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554



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Prineville-Crook County Chamber of Commerce

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October 14, 2002

WC Docket No. 03-11

Michael K. Powell, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

The Prineville-Crook County Chamber of Commerce represents 310 area businesses. We are the voice of business for Prineville and Crook County and the lead entity for economic development in Crook County, Oregon.

As you know, economic development is highly competitive and very critical. One of the larger obstacles facing our state is the difference between telecommunications services available to rural and urban parts of Oregon. As an area that has historically relied on a few industries for our job base, a more competitive telecommunications landscape would allow us to offer more to companies and industries seeking to expand or locate to Oregon.

While technology and high-speed Internet services are important, low-cost long distance rates are also critical factors for many site location decisions. Long distance competition is important if we are to succeed in attracting new business to and keeping existing business in our area. Companies contemplating Crook County as a possible location for new facilities always inquire about long distance voice and data service. Currently we have limited choices.

We believe that allowing more companies to enter the long distance market in Oregon would lead to better telecommunications services in our state and go a long way toward bringing more businesses to our communities. It is for that reason that I respectfully request your support of efforts that will provide more long distance choices to all Oregonians and provide more job opportunities to our residents. Additional telecommunications competition will help Oregon grow our local communities.

Sincerely,

Diane Bohle, Ph.D.
Executive Director